

RELIEF FOR THE ARTS

**Colorado Arts
Relief Fund
Impact Report
2022**



Colorado
Creative
Industries



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Cover photo by Dillon Wanner

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Crawford

01 Executive Summary

The second round of the Colorado Arts Relief program began with a call for applications from August 23, 2021, through November 2, 2021. The program included two channels for funding, one for organizations and one for individuals. In total, the program issued more than \$15 million in relief payments to eligible artists, crew members, and organizations. Priority was given to organizations and individuals that did not receive funding in the

first round due to lack of funds.

Priority was also given to organizations and businesses that had the greatest potential to stimulate their local economy and that serve the most pandemic-impacted communities. Overall, more than 300 organizations and more than 600 individuals submitted applications for funding, most of which were approved.

Total amount awarded

\$15.5M

To 641 individuals

\$1.8M

To 253 organizations

\$13.3M

The individuals and organizations are based throughout Colorado, in **43 counties** across the state.

Disciplines supported



Dance



Film/Motion
Picture



Literary
Arts



Music



TV/Electronic
Media



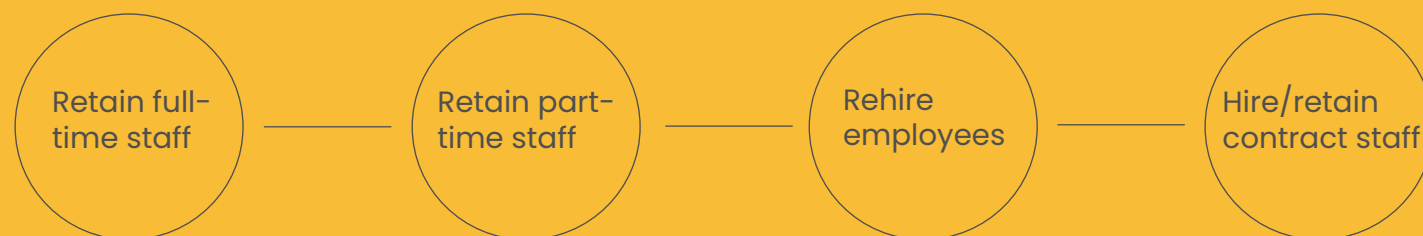
Theater



Visual Arts

Individuals used the funds to help continue their professional artistic endeavors, such as **purchasing art-related equipment and advertising**, and for meeting their essential needs, including **transportation, medical care, child care, food, and housing**.

As a result of these funds, **organizations** were able to:



02

Process & Impact Summary



“Thanks to the generous funding of CCI, I was able to recover the majority of the funds that were lost to COVID 19. Over the past two years, a significant number of workshops have either been cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic.

Given that I am an independent contractor and make my living as a poet and freelance teacher, I was not able to regain those funds in any other way. This grant helped me to cover my living expenses during this difficult period. Thank you.”

—Creative writer, Larimer County



The Second Round Process

The Legislature of the State of Colorado passed a COVID-19 funding initiative for the arts and culture sector (the Colorado Arts Relief program) during the First Extraordinary Session of the 72nd General Assembly. This fund stemmed from the Small Business Relief Program created in Section 4-48.5-316, enacted by Senate Bill 20B-001. The Legislature amended the bill in the 2021 Regular Session with House Bill 21-1285, which directed up to \$15.5 million for relief payments to eligible artists, crew members, and organizations. The program's purpose was to support a resilient post-pandemic economy.

Colorado Creative Industries was responsible for managing both rounds of this program. The organization created two pools of funds for each round, one for organizations and one for individuals. Creative Industries used a third party administrator, Redline, to pay out the awarded grants, which allowed for the funds to be paid out quickly during both cycles. Redline retained less than 2% of the total funds for their services administering the grants, or \$300,000.

In the second round of funding, funds for organizations were targeted to help avoid permanent arts, culture, and entertainment business closures, retain or rehire jobs, and preserve community cultural assets affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency. Weight was given to applications from organizations and businesses that applied for the previous round and did not receive funding due to a lack of funds. Priority was also given to organizations and businesses that had the greatest potential to stimulate their local economy and that serve the most pandemic-impacted communities.

Guidelines for this program were slightly revised from the first funding round to account for feedback received, as well as changes in the current creative ecosystem due to the gradual reopening of creative businesses and a return to in-person events.

Funds for individuals targeted individual artists, freelancers, crewmembers, and other individuals in the creative sector. The funding prioritized artists and crewmembers that applied for previous Arts Relief funding and did not receive funding due to lack of funds.



Photo by Marc Pineda on Unsplash
Artwork @Pat.McKinney

Round 1 Breakdown

*Colorado Arts Relief applications were open from
December 15, 2020-January 8, 2021.*

Total amount awarded

\$7.4M

In the first round of funding, \$7,353,500 was awarded to 594 individuals and 128 organizations, including businesses, nonprofits.

To individuals

\$1.4M

Of the \$7.4 million, \$1.4 million in awards of \$1,000-\$2,500 were granted to 594 individuals

To organizations

\$6.0M

Of the \$7.4 million, \$6 million in awards of \$2,500-\$200,000 were granted to 128 businesses and organizations

45 counties

Individuals and organizations from 45 counties across Colorado were funded.

To individuals: 41 counties

To organizations: 34 counties

To organizations

\$48,061

Average amount awarded

\$25,000

Median amount awarded

To individuals

\$2,268

Average amount awarded

\$2,500

Median amount awarded

Photo by Colin Lloyd
on Unsplash

Round 2 Breakdown

*Colorado Arts Relief applications were open from
August 23, 2021 - November 2, 2021*

Total amount awarded

\$15M+

In the second round of funding, more than \$15 million was awarded to **641 individuals and 253 organizations**, including businesses, nonprofits, and municipal entities.

To individuals, \$1.8M

\$459K

\$459,000 in awards of \$1,000 - \$2,000 to were granted to 259 individuals;

\$1.3M

An additional \$1,339,000 in awards of \$3,000 to \$4,000 were granted to 382 individuals.

To organizations, \$13.3M

\$5.6M

\$5.6 million in awards of \$10,000 to \$60,000 were granted to **187 businesses and organizations.**

\$7.7M

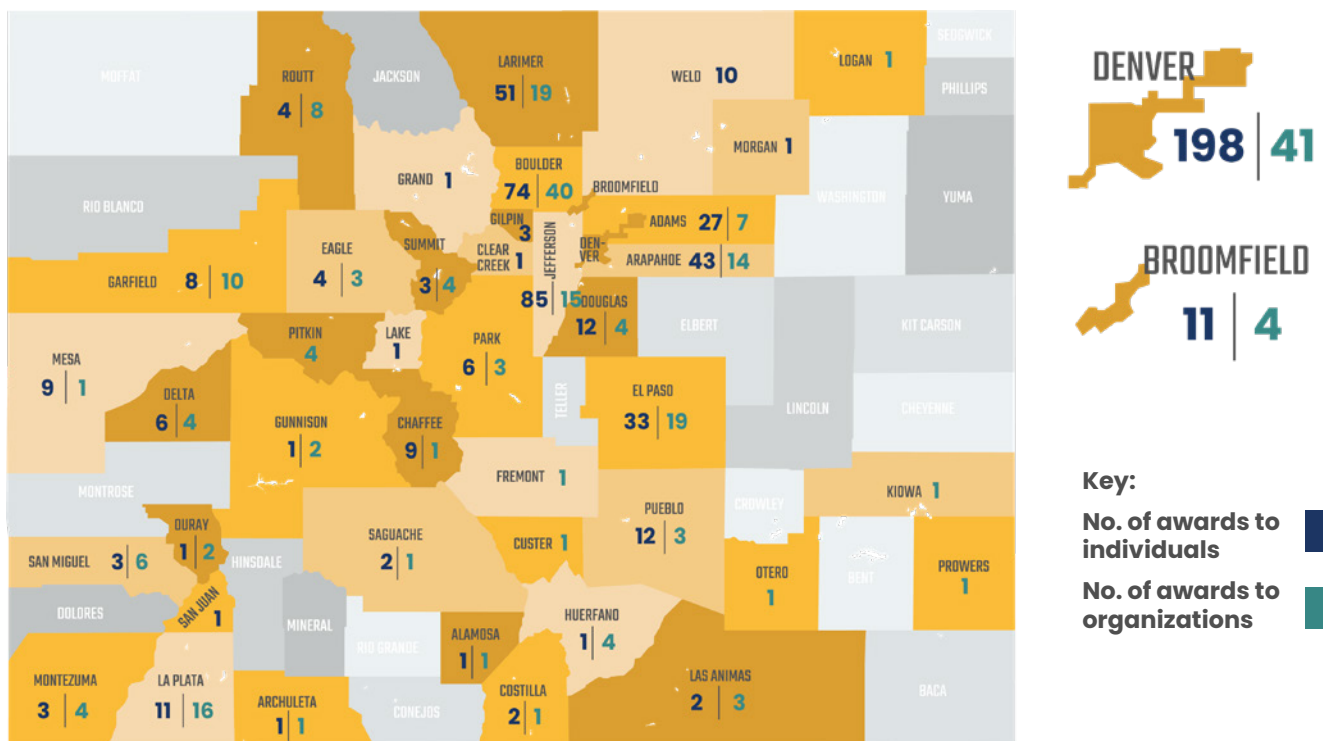
**\$7.7 million in awards of
\$80,000-\$200,000 to 66
businesses and organizations.**

Diversity in funding

88%

88% of organizations, or 224 organizations, did not receive funding in the first round of the Arts Relief Fund.

Awards by County



04 Individual Data & Profiles

“This funding was an incredible help during the period of the music industry's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. I am a lighting designer and have been for ten years and was unable to work in any way for more than a year. This funding allowed me to catch up on debts owed to family and friends for rent and other expenses such as food and utilities. Additionally, as I began to get booked for lighting gigs as music venues picked up after the shutdown, I had the funds to take a three-day course in the platform I use to program my lighting shows, and that class included equipment that will help me to improve my craft going forward. Without this grant, I would not have been able to get back to my career with the training and equipment I needed.”

—Lighting designer, Denver County



Individuals

\$459,000 in awards of \$1,000 - \$2,000 were granted to 259 individuals and an additional \$1,339,000 in awards of \$3,000 to \$4,000 were granted to 384 individuals, totalling \$1.8 million.

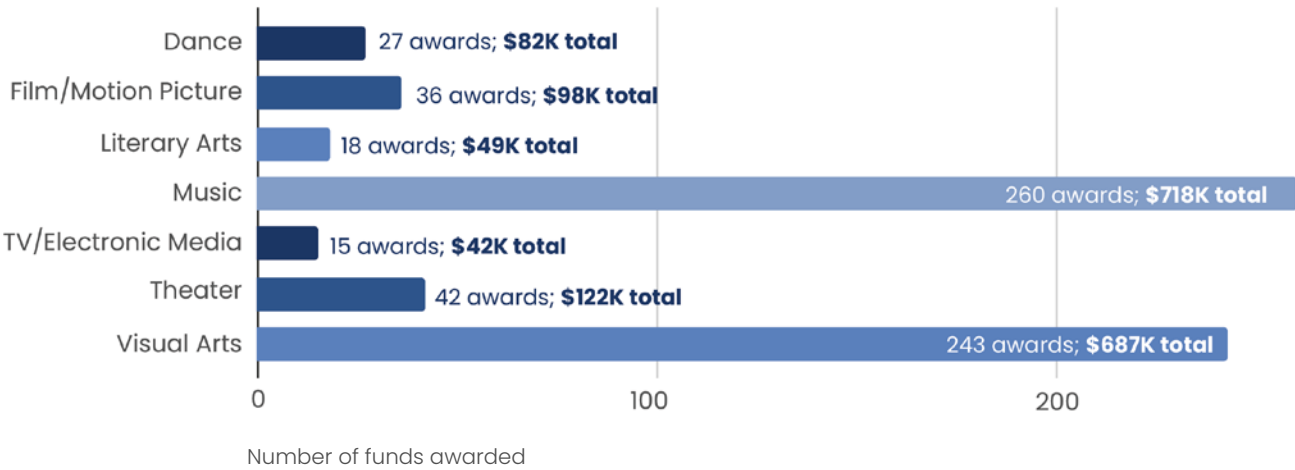
\$2,805

Average amount awarded


\$3,000

Median amount awarded


Category/Discipline




Types of expenses individuals used funds to cover:



Art-related equipment




Art-related supplies




Credit card debt, savings




Lease




Music video




Debt




Utilities




Transportation




Advertising



Medical



Child care



Food, groceries



Housing

83%

83% of recipients used funds on more than one expense

70%

70% used funds to cover their mortgage or rent

62%

62% used funds for art related supplies or equipment

46%

Nearly half, 46%, used funds to help purchase groceries or food

15%

15% needed the funds to cover transportation costs

Lisa Taylor

County: Montezuma | **Category:** Writing | **Primary use of funds:** Provide writing workshops for youth

As a working writer, the Colorado Artist Relief grant enabled me to offer writing workshops to teens in the county. Some of the teens are at risk (hence the name Writing for Resilience) and I firmly believe the arts are a way to reach youth, particularly disenfranchised youth. It also allowed me to connect with area artists and writers, employing them to create broadsides of the poems and read at final events. As always, connections with artists serves to support my own art by validating the importance of art in life and my community.

Some of the unexpected outcomes from this project were seeing the varied artistic interpretations of youth poetry, providing much needed and appreciated technology at the local library (which graciously donated space for four months of meetings in the winter), and meeting an indigenous poet and a performance poet who traveled to read at my final event. I also appreciated the ability to keep the funds primarily local, using a local copy place in Cortez to make the broadsides, and local businesses to provide food for the final events and weekly refreshments for the teens. All these places have suffered during the pandemic. Another surprise were the teens who approached me at our last meeting asking to continue in the fall. I have agreed to do this as a volunteer basis if the library will again offer the space.

Art offers a way to unify people and provide a healthy outlet for teens/youth who are not affiliated with other activities. Art is not a luxury. It is a necessity. As we draw, sculpt, or tell our stories, we connect at a deeper level with others. I've been writing since my teen years. I believe in the power of words and art to transform lives and communities. Involving teens was important to me because I remember how hard it was at that age to find a place to belong. There is a lot of pressure on teens these days. When teens write poems or stories, they can just be themselves. It is important to me to create a space of unqualified acceptance for the group.



“Using this grant money to get assistance with my website copy allowed me the time to work on a passion project – painting the gorgeous mountain views I see from my home high above Colorado's North Fork Valley overlooking Paonia! This respite has led to big things! One of my paintings, "Twinkle Valley," was recently picked up by Qutori Wines in Paonia, CO to be on the label for their pinot noir wine. This grant raised my spirits, renewed my passion for my art, and is allowing me to spread my work further than I would have ever dreamed. Thank you so much! -Robin Arthur, Paonia/Boulder County

Dan Holz

County: Dolores | **Category:** Photography | **Primary use of funds:** Upgrade of photo equipment

I saw a significant drop in overall spending on photography and video across most industries during the pandemic. As a commercial and editorial photographer, it had a direct impact on my bottom line.

I create photo and video content for organizations and publications who want to develop stories around their product, brand, events, and locations. Many times, this is in the form of a documentary around an athlete. Or documenting an expedition while a company's gear is being used in the field. Sometimes the assignment is simply capturing landscape images domestically or it involves assembling a photo essay of an international location. All of these opportunities allow me to share a part of the world with an audience who very often

doesn't have the chance to see it for themselves in-person. With any luck, the images I create will inspire people to look at the world just a bit differently.

Like many other photographers, I wanted to work during the pandemic, but the jobs just weren't there like they were previously.

Thanks to the Colorado Artist Relief Funds, I was able to put the funds towards a (much-needed) equipment upgrade. Just like laptops and phones, cameras become outdated regularly. To remain competitive in my field, I needed a camera upgrade, but I still needed to be pretty frugal with my spending due to the drop in business during the pandemic. The funds allowed me to get the upgraded equipment I needed when I needed it.



Credit: Dan Holz

Darren Garvey

County: Boulder | **Category:** Music | **Primary use of funds:** Updated equipment, core business expenses



Credit Jesse Bromwell

When my 2020 tour schedule was canceled, I took the opportunity to take a break and spend time with my family. During this down time, I decided to buy the guitar I have always wanted and moved a piano into the house.

The pandemic gave me time to write songs and the new guitar gave me fresh inspiration. But writing about the pandemic, the difficulties there within, and the struggles in America seemed too obvious. So, I made the conscious decision to focus on love.

The first song that came out of the new guitar was my single “No Love Is Wrong,” which is inspired by my amazing friends and family in the LGBTQ community. This single is the first song that I not only put time and energy into the recording, but I was able to make a video for it. The funds allowed me to give it proper attention upon its release, which I’ve seen the results of in streaming results. It brings me great joy that it’s being listened to by a larger audience.

Art is crucial to the quality of life in a community. It feeds the imagination of the future for adults and children alike. Art is crucial to every community and breathes life into all of us.

“

“This was an immeasurable gift! Right at the end of the pandemic when all of my reserves were completely drained, and I truly needed a new computer to keep working and to pay rent for the month of February. Thank you so much for caring for the artists of Colorado. It gave me hope to keep pursuing my craft and to be more and more dedicated to my projects centered around the glaciers of the Front Range. Many thanks!”

—Melanie Moser, Golden/
Jefferson County

“

Colorado Creative Industries has been a crucial part of my success as an artist and a creative community organizer. It has empowered me and my community to generate deep cultural impact on many planes. CCI has funded me as an individual artist for several projects, including Voices of the Plains oral history project, bARTer Collective street side community art-ivism, and Prairie Past and Futures high school students as community visual and oral archivists. The funding also helped cultural organizations I work with (Grassroots Foundation, Liberty Rural Learning Cooperative) and has provided me with professional development (Change Leaders program) and creative networking support.

— Maureen Hearty, Joes/Yuma
County

Organization Data & Profiles

“I’m so thankful for this funding as it’s helped to cover this year of the paperless animation software licenses that I need to create all the animated materials and storyboard animatics for pitching our original hand drawn, family-safe animated series (which is set in a fantasy version of this area of Colorado). The yearly licenses are expensive, for both the animation software Harmony and Storyboard Pro, and this is such a relief for my family.”

—Digital media creator, Mesa County

“This Grant was a lifesaver! I bought paints, canvases, brushes, and frames to continue to produce finished pieces during a time when things felt hopeless. Thank you!”

—Visual artist, La Plata County



Organizations & Businesses

\$5.6 million in awards of \$10,000 to \$60,000 were granted to 187 nonprofits, businesses, and other creative companies, and \$7.6 million in awards of \$80,000-\$200,000 to 66 businesses and organizations, for a total of \$13.3 million.

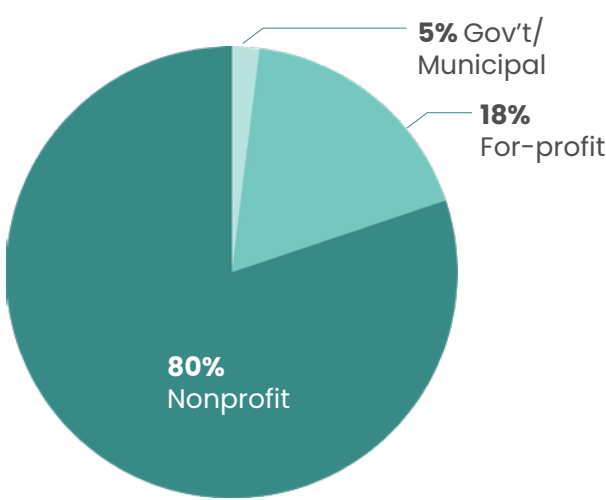
\$52.6K

Average amount awarded

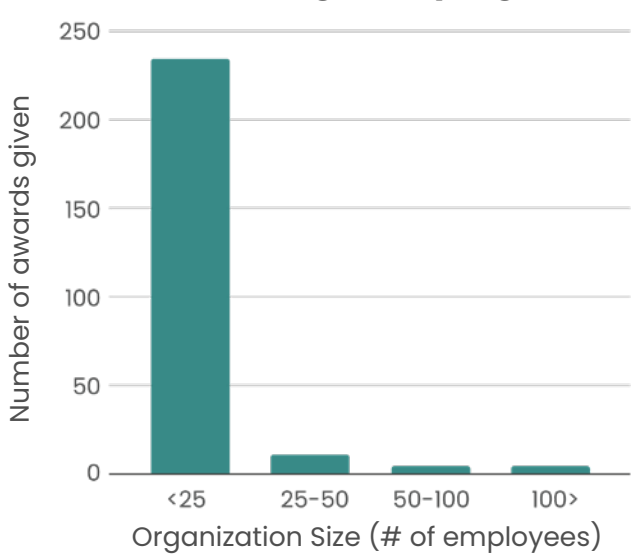
\$40.0K

Median amount awarded

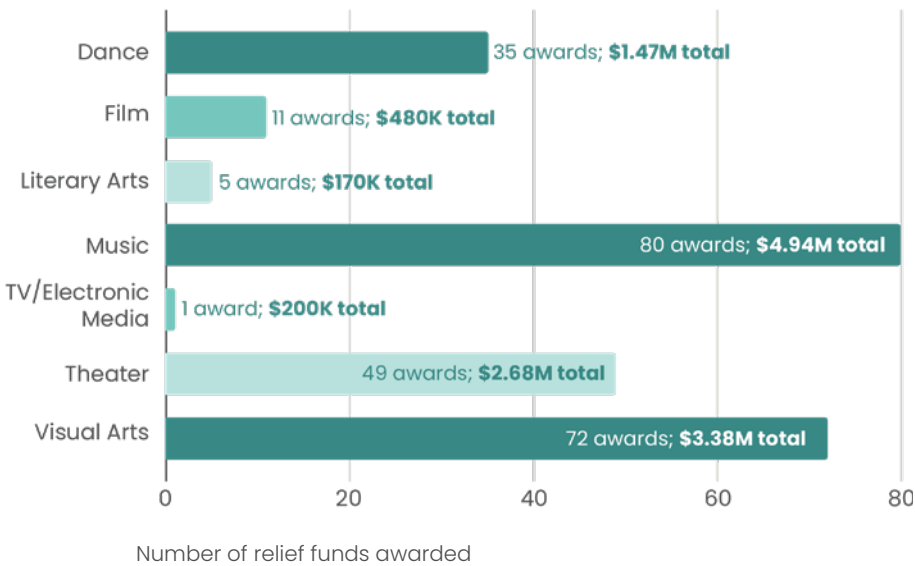
Types of business awarded relief funds



Number of awards given by org size



Number of relief funds awarded by category



50%+
More than half of organizations that received funding were able to retain full-time staff with the funds

+25%
An additional 25% were able to retain part-time staff

100+
More than 100 organizations were able to use funds to hire or retain contract staff

~375
Nearly 375 employees were rehired as a result of these funds

Huajatolla Heritage Foundation

County: Huerfano | **Type:** Nonprofit | **Category:** Music

After a 40-year nursing career, Sandy Dolak was drawn to the La Veta and Huerfano County area to make an impact in one of the poorest regions in Colorado.

“I wanted to make a difference,” says Sandy, who serves as Chief Visionary for the Huajatolla Heritage Foundation.

Arts play a major role in Huerfano County communities. La Veta is a community of artists that serves as a launching area for artists’ communes in the county. The Huajatolla Heritage Foundation is a platform for area residents to honor and preserve Colorado heritage through the exploration and sharing of art, culture, language, and spiritual beliefs.

“We enjoy a reputation of providing diverse programming to reflect community and regional interest,” says Sandy. “We have been able to provide a showcase for local as well as regional talent. We are creating and filling a niche that showcases the artistic, cultural, and historical relevance of our area. The impact culturally and economically is huge!”

The COVID pandemic paralyzed Huajatolla, causing the cancellation of its annual Heritage Festival of artists and musicians. After receiving the Colorado Artist Relief funding, however, Huajatolla and Sandy were rejuvenated.

“The COVID funding put wind beneath my wings,” says Sandy, who was working nearly 60 hours a week and used the funds mostly for her salary.

She worked to develop and staff a wide variety of programming to share virtually and with smaller groups, leveraging the culturally diverse community of artists and residents.

“We worked to help the wisdom keepers serve as the wisdom sharers,” says Sandy. “It was a lot of work to make it happen.”

While Huajatolla tends to focus on the predominantly Hispanic and Native cultural contributions to the area, Anglo contributions also are recognized.

“We had miners of all nationalities who came to work in the coal mines,” says Sandy. “The stories of the coal camps need to be told. And still, today, as a hundred years ago, ranching is a way of life in Huerfano County that is unique in modern America. These stories also need to be shared.”



Japanese Arts Network

County: Broomfield | **Type:** Nonprofit | **Category:** Visual Arts

Arts serve as a universal language, helping build empathy and understanding. Based in Broomfield, the Japanese Arts Network (JA-NE) exemplifies this noble purpose as a national small business, striving to build an ecosystem of support for Japanese artists by developing programs and platforms to strengthen their visibility and the broader community.

“We’re the tissue connecting artists with communities and stakeholders,” says Courtney Ozaki, JA-NE’s founder and creative producer.

According to Courtney, it was extremely difficult to keep people connected through the deep isolation of the COVID pandemic. It was no less challenging for artists, but, with the help of the network and the Colorado Artist Relief Fund, the artists adapted.

“They had to think differently,” says Courtney. “And we helped create new opportunities for people to connect.”

JA-NE created music videos, for example, to embrace their creativity, as well as a wide array of virtual programming.

With COVID relief funding available to support the staff, JA-NE also was able to incubate new programming, some of which was shared internationally via virtual channels. Additionally, they were staffed to be able to check in with artists to creatively devise opportunities for artists to make a living.

“The funding gave us flexibility. It gave me permission to pay myself and the staff. If our staff isn’t supported, the programming doesn’t exist,” Courtney adds. “I’m so grateful for the funding. It would have been very difficult to survive without it.”

One of the programs – Stories of Solidarity – focuses on sharing Japanese history and mapping Japanese culture in the Five Points and Curtis Park neighborhoods in Denver. JA-NE staff and artists created audio-visual components, including oral histories and an archive.

In addition to the isolation of the pandemic, Japanese communities also had to contend with anti-Asian hate crimes related to COVID. JA-NE, in partnership with the Arvada Center Arts & Humanities, developed programming to address stereotypes of marginalized voices, including Blacks and LatinX.

“Asian stereotypes have been more present in our society given the rise of anti-Asian hate that has swept across our country over the past two years,” Courtney says. “We worked to lift up the multi-racial identities of our local community and strive to reinforce solidarity and empathy between communities of color through arts and cultural engagement.”



EcoArts Connections

County: Boulder

Type: Nonprofit

Category: Visual Arts

The Colorado Artist Relief Fund made a huge impact on the Mexican immigrant community in Boulder through the nonprofit EcoArts Connection (EAC), which was initially forced to cancel all its programming and exhibits because of COVID.

“We are so thankful for the funding,” says Marda Kim, executive director of EAC. “It was so positive. [The state] said, ‘Here’s some money so you can survive. We trust you. You’ll get through this.’ It came from such a place of respect.”

For Marda, the best part of the funding was its flexibility. “The circumstances were changing all the time. We could use the funding the way we needed,” she says.

EAC works with Latinx immigrants who have come to the United States in search of a better life, and live primarily in mobile home parks. EAC brings the arts together with science, social justice, Indigenous culture, and other ways of knowing to broaden the minds of people of all ages, inspire a sustainable and flourishing future, and find new roles for the arts in the face of global change.

Additionally, EAC commissions, produces, and presents performances, exhibits, talks, panels, classes, films, convenings, youth programs, and other activities in venues mostly in Boulder County.

“Mobile home parks are over-looked,” Marda says. “They have 1-14 people living in a mobile home. Most are at or below the poverty line. They’re frontline workers who’ve either lost their jobs during the pandemic or were at greater risk of getting COVID.”

Not only did EAC’s constituents have to deal with a pandemic, they also face transportation, language, and immigration documentation challenges on a daily basis.

So beyond providing socially distanced arts programming, EAC used COVID funding to help teach adults how to learn remotely and held train-the-trainer sessions with artists.

With funding for staff, EAC also was able to participate in the City of Boulder’s Climate Mobilization Action plan, representing an equity and inclusion voice in the process.

“I’m honored that EcoArts can be a trust bridge,” she adds. “Because of tremendous fear, (our constituents) don’t know they can be open to arts and culture and be creative.”



Phamaly Theater Company

County: Denver | **Type:** Nonprofit | **Category:** Theater

In the face of a global pandemic, the Phamaly Theatre Company in Denver never went dark.

This may not be surprising when you consider Phamaly is built upon a constituency that is accustomed to adapting. For more than 30 years, Phamaly has been challenging preconceived biases and assumptions about individuals with disabilities through high-quality, professional productions that utilize disability as a creative asset — sharing transformative stories, deconstructing barriers, and elevating disability. Phamaly is the longest-running professional theatre company in the country exclusively featuring actors with disabilities.

Phamaly's staff and board have continued to work during the pandemic, adjusting programming to maintain a community for theatre artists and stakeholders while maximizing all available funding opportunities.

"We are inherently adaptable," says Sasha Hutchings, managing director. "We adapted to the situation."

Recognizing many of Phamaly's theatre artists and stakeholders are at a higher risk for COVID, due to their disabilities, Phamaly has continuously worked to adjust its programming. With the help of the Colorado Artist Relief funding, Phamaly created a wide variety of virtual content, from productions and parodies to play readings and professional development.

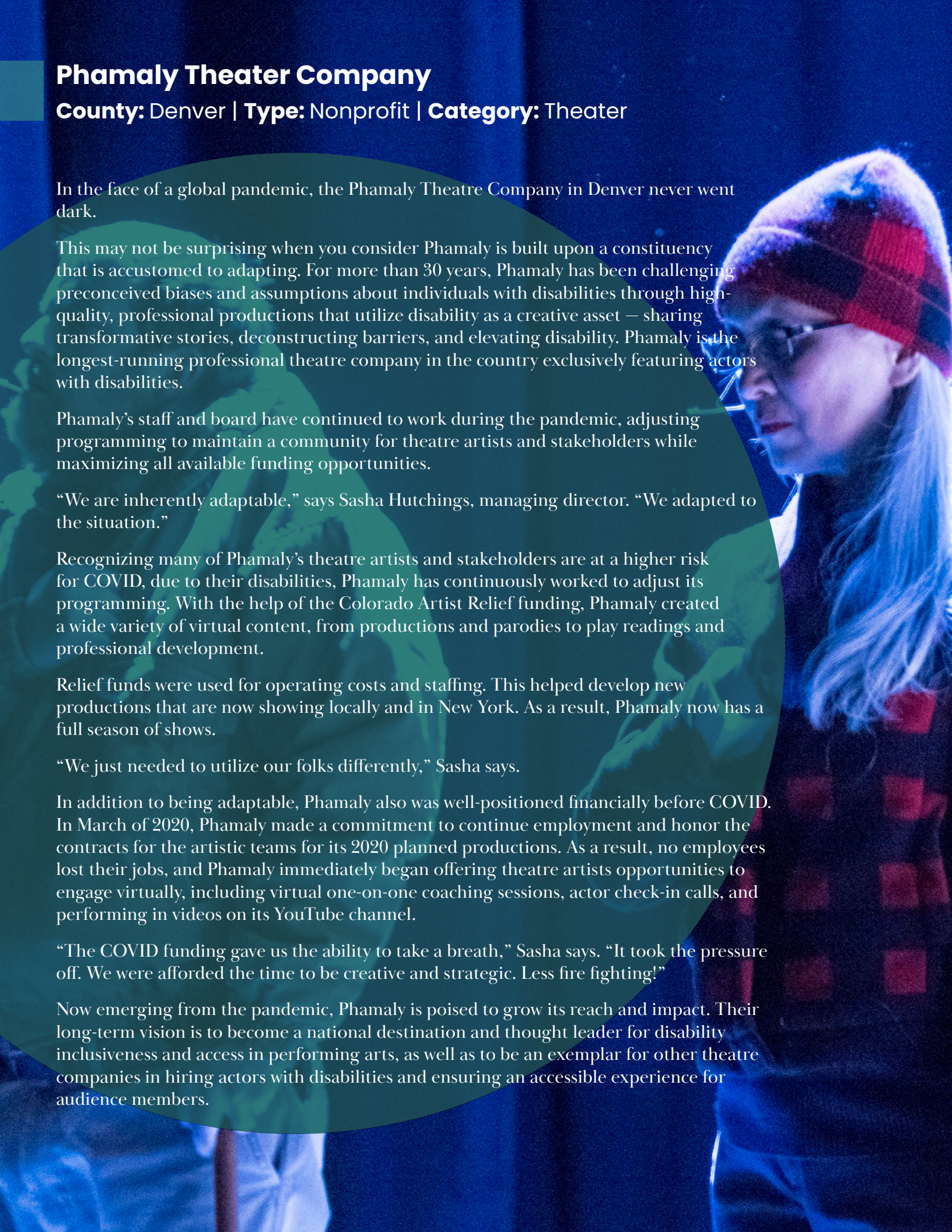
Relief funds were used for operating costs and staffing. This helped develop new productions that are now showing locally and in New York. As a result, Phamaly now has a full season of shows.

"We just needed to utilize our folks differently," Sasha says.

In addition to being adaptable, Phamaly also was well-positioned financially before COVID. In March of 2020, Phamaly made a commitment to continue employment and honor the contracts for the artistic teams for its 2020 planned productions. As a result, no employees lost their jobs, and Phamaly immediately began offering theatre artists opportunities to engage virtually, including virtual one-on-one coaching sessions, actor check-in calls, and performing in videos on its YouTube channel.

"The COVID funding gave us the ability to take a breath," Sasha says. "It took the pressure off. We were afforded the time to be creative and strategic. Less fire fighting!"

Now emerging from the pandemic, Phamaly is poised to grow its reach and impact. Their long-term vision is to become a national destination and thought leader for disability inclusiveness and access in performing arts, as well as to be an exemplar for other theatre companies in hiring actors with disabilities and ensuring an accessible experience for audience members.



Steamboat Dance Theater

County: Routt | **Type:** Nonprofit | **Category:** Dance

Support from the Colorado Artist Relief Fund was a game-changer for the Steamboat Dance Theater, which was significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic.

Steamboat Dance Theatre's (SDT) mission is to engage, enrich, and educate the communities of the Yampa Valley through dance and movement, bringing a variety of dance programming to anyone in the community – dancers and non-dancers alike.

The nonprofit theater group was forced to cancel its annual concert, which accounted for 65-70 percent of the organization's annual income. This was a big blow for an integral player in the Steamboat community. The Steamboat Dance Theater provides extensive arts programming, balancing the outdoors/athletic nature of the area and rounding out the quality of life.

"We help make Steamboat an even more attractive place to be," says Executive Director Kristen Orr Jespersen.

Relief funding enabled the organization to continue building community by providing dance scholarships and low-cost programming. The group had to adjust performances and rehearsals. Still, the staff made montage videos to be shown to live audiences later and held virtual dance classes and lectures.

Most importantly, COVID funding covered operating costs that freed staff to help build the organization's sustainability. Adapting to the pandemic helped the group discover new ways to build capacity.

"The funding was critical in helping us not be in a non-stop emergency situation. We had the ability to hire a facilitator to help develop a strategic plan, which is now a critical guidebook for our future," Kristen says. "We were able to have time to be more thoughtful because we had the resources. We went through a rigorous evaluation and mapped out key programming goals."

The group also is hiring a programming manager, building more strategic partnerships, and working to "not recreate the wheel."

"We're more focused on meeting our stakeholders where they are," she adds.

Working to enact its strategic plan, the theater group is growing the area it serves in the Yampa Valley, including reaching more school districts. Additionally, they are now exposing all income levels to the arts, including offering financial assistance to make the arts accessible.

"It's a full cycle of exposure and engagement," she says.



Ute Theater and Events Center

County: Garfield | **Type:** Municipal | **Category:** Music

An institution in the Rifle community and greater Garfield County area, the Ute Theater and Events Center was forced to cancel more than 220 music, theater, dance, and business events during the COVID pandemic.

“We had to cancel a show during a soundcheck,” says Wayne Pleasants, who manages the municipally run building.

With help from the Colorado Artist Relief Fund, the Ute Theater management was able to adapt, producing live-streamed concerts, comedy shows, and limited capacity shows of 44 people, like the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

“The COVID relief funding really helped us get back on our feet,” Wayne says.

With the help of Wayne, several Ute Theater staff also applied and received individual grants, which “really helped stabilize our labor pool.”

“Three-fourths of our staff received grants,” Wayne says. “(Reaching out for support) really paid off,” he adds.

Funding also was utilized to update the facility’s aging HVAC system.

Completely renovated with a nod to the original 40s décor, the Ute Theater is located one block north of the main business district and serves as a gathering place and economic driver for the community. Prior to the COVID pandemic, the Ute Theater housed between 100-200 events per year, including nationally recognized and local acts, films, meetings, and receptions.

Due to its rural location, access to art-related programs is limited. The Ute Theater and Events Center is the only venue of size between Beaver Creek (two hours) and Grand Junction (one hour) on the I-70 corridor. Therefore, the Ute Theater pulls audiences from other rural communities.

As the only live entertainment venue in the City of Rifle, the Ute Theater remains committed to booking local acts including bands, dance companies, and theater groups. The Ute Theater and Events Center fills the need for a live performance venue along with being able to host private parties, as well as governmental and regional business meetings. The local symphony regularly performs four events per year at the theater. The theater also is expanding to include dance performances from local and regional companies.



Flamenco Denver

County: Denver | **Type:** Nonprofit | **Category:** Dance

As the founder, artistic director, and sole employee of Flamenco Denver, Maria Vazquez makes her way through each day much like a Flamenco dancer who uses intricate footwork and beautiful costuming to tell and story through movement. Her role sees her adept at switching between her numerous functions from dance instructor and educator to fundraiser and businesswoman.

It was a lot to ask. Even before the pandemic shut down the studio, which is the main source of revenue for the organization, it became overwhelming when Maria moved her classes online and had to translate the percussive art form through technology.

Flamenco Denver serves audiences across the Front Range from Adams County south through Douglas County, with most activities in Denver, Jefferson, and Arapahoe counties. All the group's performances and classes are open to the public, and the organization is inclusive to all populations.

"It was incredibly difficult to teach classes and connect on Zoom," she says. "And even when we were finally able to be in person, I had to limit my classes to five students per session, which meant I had to add more classes to meet the demand."

And there was a huge demand once the state eased public health restrictions.

"We need to dance for our own health. It's a form of expression, a way to connect, and a way to bring light back into a dark situation," Maria says.

There is no doubt in Maria's mind that the Colorado Artists Relief Fund grant she received was vital to the organization's survival. "The extra support was essential," she says.

The funds enabled her to pay her full-time salary along with the stipends she pays performers who offer free dance performances throughout the area.

Of special note is Flamenco Denver's unwavering focus on outreach to educational institutions, particularly Title I schools that serve historically marginalized populations that have been excluded from consistent performing arts exposure. The CARF funds helped Flamenco Denver continue to provide a free program to these schools that includes costumed dancers and musicians who perform and engage with the students in interactive activities that celebrate Hispanic heritage and the joy and discipline of the cultural artform.

While the school is still working to bring all its students back, Maria's outlook is positive. With support from personal and governmental donations and grants, Flamenco Denver is focused on hiring more artists and staff on a full- or part-time basis, producing more performances and educational outreach opportunities, filling more seats in theaters, and helping keep the resiliency of the creative arts community alive.



10 Mile Music Hall

County: Summit

Type: For-profit

Category: Music

The COVID-19 pandemic was a surprise for many business owners, but for 10 Mile Music Hall in Summit County, the writing was on the wall long before the state or county placed public health restrictions on in-person events. As Todd Altschuler, one of 10 Mile's owners says, musicians started canceling shows weeks before there was talk about the need to socially distance or wear a mask.

The cancellations couldn't have come at a worse time for Todd and his partners, who had just started to find their footing when the pandemic hit. The group founded the space in downtown Frisco in 2018, looking to fill the void for large, live music venues in Summit, Eagle, Park, and Lake counties.

As they saw it, the space offered something for everyone: live music, wedding and event space, and cultural events that regularly catered to the Mexican, Central and South American locals who flocked to the venue to hear Banda, Tejano, and other Spanish-influenced music. Without the ability to use the space for in-person events, Todd and his partners faced an uncertain future.

As an arts venue that is also a small business, Todd and his partners didn't have a donor base or group of supporters to help.

"We were a brand-new business when this all started, but we saw the dominoes falling and didn't know what they meant longer term," he says. "We needed to keep paying rent with no revenue coming in, which meant there wasn't a person in my life who wasn't looking for a way to help."

For 10 Mile Music Hall, the Colorado Artists Relief grant was a lifeline. The funds helped the venue meet its day-to-day expenses, which were mounting quickly. The owners covered rent and staff salaries for 12 part-time employees, eight of whom were rehired.

"That it was a grant was amazing and a game changer," Todd says. The funds subsidized lost revenue and enabled the venue to start looking forward and scheduling shows and events again.

Today, the doors are open to business, and Todd and his partners have a healthy outlook for this year. "We don't see any impediments on the horizon. We'd love to thank the legislators who supported us by inviting them into our space to see how essential the arts are for a vibrant economy."



Sterling Creatives

County: Logan | **Type:** For-profit | **Category:** Visual arts

Sterling Creatives is a unique artist cooperative located in the beautiful and historic downtown of Sterling, Colorado. Founded in 2017, the business is the primary retail outlet for more than a dozen artists in the northeast corner of the state. “It’s a showplace for artistic expression where we sell beautiful items for customers’ enjoyment,” Denise Sunderman, one of the artists with the business, says.

Beyond selling their wares, the artists serve as a family of ambassadors who welcome and inform visitors about art and the region. Consequently, the gallery is a portal for visitors to the larger community.

In addition to member artists, Sterling Creatives has a community corner for youth and those over 70 to sell artwork at no cost to the artists. The business also offers various workshops on multiple mediums to bring people together for artistic enjoyment, mental health, and community building.

As a small business that relies on the ability to assemble artists and patrons alike to produce, sell, exhibit, network, and learn from one another, the pandemic posed an existential threat to its day-to-day existence.

“We initially wanted to make sure we were part of the solution. We closed our gallery to the public & tried a variety of ways to generate revenue without needlessly exposing people to COVID,” Denise says. “But as the weeks wore on, we were fearful of how we were going to keep our business financially viable.”

Resources from the Colorado Artists Relief Fund helped mitigate some of the businesses’ most pressing financial concerns. “With this funding, we have been able to expand the educational offerings available for the community. We have been able to stay open steady, predictable hours for the public, and we have partnered with schools & mental health organizations to reach more people,” Denise shares.

Included in that outreach has been creating networking and training events for member artists and community members, including bringing in speakers from other states to teach new art techniques and approaches.

Overall, the funds were a crucial part of helping the business stay on track, position it for future growth and help it continue to be the community resource so many people use.

“While we are far removed geographically from Denver, the people in our region have a deep appreciation for being able to stay in the region for commerce, education, and entertainment,” Denise says. “Spreading the funding throughout the state helps exponentially in rural Colorado.”



Alpha list of grantee including name, website, and county

Organization Name	Organization Website	County
10 Mile Music LLC	10milemusic.com	Summit County
1940s Ball NFP	1940sball.org	Jefferson County
40 West Arts	40westarts.org	Jefferson County
5Point Adventure Film Festival	5pointfilm.org	Garfield County
A Child's Song	achildssong.org	Adams County
A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art	armitchellmuseum.com	Las Animas County
Alamosa Live Music Association	almaonline.org	Alamosa County
Animal Farm Music, LLC.	animalfarmband.com	Denver County
Animal Handmade	animalhandmade.com	Adams County
Arapahoe Philharmonic	arapahoe-phil.org	Arapahoe County
Arcadian Pictures	arcadianpictures.com	Larimer County
Artisans of Mancos Gallery	artisansofmancos.com	Montezuma County
ArtoCade	artocade.com	Las Animas County
Arts Coalition of Delta County	artscoalitionofdeltacounty.org	Delta County
Artworks Center for Contemporary Art	artworksloveland.org	Larimer County
Aspen Film	aspenfilm.org	Pitkin County
Aspen Music Festival and School	aspenmusicfestival.com	Pitkin County
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet	aspensantafeballet.com	Pitkin County
Athena Project	AthenaProjectArts.org	Jefferson County
Augustana Arts Inc.	augustanaaarts.org	Denver County
Aurora Singers	aurorasingers.org	Arapahoe County
BackStory Theatre	BackstoryTheatre.org	Broomfield County
Balefire Goods	balefiregoods.com	Jefferson County
Ballet Ariel	balletariel.org	Denver County
Bas Bleu Theatre Company	basbleu.org	Larimer County
Be FRANK Foundation	befrankfoundation.org	La Plata County
Best of Ballroom	bestofballroom.net	El Paso County
Biennial of the Americas	biennialoftheamericas.org	Denver County
Block 1750	block1750.com	Boulder County
Blue Moose Art Gallery LLC	bluemooseartgallery.com	Larimer County
Bookcliffs Council on Arts & Humanities	bookcliffsartscenter.org	Garfield County
Boulder Community Broadcast Association, dba KGNU	kgnu.org	Boulder County
Boulder Metalsmithing Association	bouldermetalsmiths.com	Boulder County

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra	boulderphil.org	Boulder County
Boulder Samba School	bouldersambaschool.org	Boulder County
Boulder Symphony	bouldersymphony.org	Boulder County
BRAVO COLORADO AT VAIL BEAVER CREEK	bravovail.org	Eagle County
Breckenridge Creative Arts	breckcreate.org	Summit County
Broomfield Council on the Arts & Humanities	artsinbroomfield.org	Broomfield County
Bug Performance and Media Art Center	bugtheatre.org	Denver County
Buntport Theater	buntport.com	Denver County
Carbondale Arts	carbondalearts.com	Garfield County
Castle Rock Artist Cooperative	castlerockartcoop.com	Douglas County
Centennial State Ballet	centennialstateballet.org	Boulder County
CenterStage Theatre Company	centerstagetheatrecompany.org	Boulder County
Central City Opera	centralcityopera.org	Jefferson County
Centro Cultural Mexicano, Mexican Cultural Center	mccdenver.org	Denver County
Chamber Music with the Veronika String Quartet	veronikastringquartet.comindex.html	El Paso County
CherryArts	cherryarts.org	Denver County
Cheyenne Mountain Public Broadcast House, Inc.	kcme.org	El Paso County
Colorado Arts and Artist Associates	coloradoartsandartists.com	Pueblo County
COLORADO CHAMBER PLAYERS INC	coloradochamberplayers.org	Denver County
Colorado Children's Chorale	childrenschorale.org	Denver County
Colorado Conservatory of Dance	ccdance.org	Broomfield County
Colorado Environmental Film Festival	ceff.net	Jefferson County
Colorado Film Society	biff1.com	Boulder County
Colorado Jazz Inc.	coloradojazz.org	Douglas County
Colorado Korean Chorus	ckchorus.org	Arapahoe County
Colorado New Play Festival	cnpfsteamboat.org	Routt County
Colorado Photographic Arts Center	cpacphoto.org	Denver County
Colorado School of Acting	ColoradoSchoolofActing.com	Arapahoe County
Colorado Springs Choral Society	cschorale.org	El Paso County
Colorado Springs Conservatory	coloradospringsconservatory.org	El Paso County
Colorado State University - ACT Human Rights Film Festival	actfilmfest.colostate.edu	Larimer County
Colorado Theater in Non Traditional Spaces	coloradotints.com	Chaffee County
Colorado Youth Mariachi Program	coyouthmariachi.wixsite.comcym	Adams County
Compound Corporation dba The Caribou Room	thecaribouroom.com	Boulder County

Concrete Couch	concretecouch.org	El Paso County
Control Group Productions	controlgroupproductions.org	Jefferson County
Crackpots, Inc.	eCrackpots.com	Boulder County
Creative Strategies for Change	creativestrategiesforchange.com	Denver County
Crested Butte Music Festival	crestedbuttemusicfestival.org	Gunnison County
Crow-Luther Cultural Events Center	plainstheater.com	Kiowa County
Curious Theatre Company	curioustheatre.org	Denver County
Dance Initiative Inc.	danceinitiative.org	Garfield County
DANCE2B LLC	dance2b.com	Denver County
Dancing Spirit Community Arts Center	dancingspiritgallery.org	La Plata County
Deep Creek Experimental	deepcreekmine.org	San Miguel County
DEFIANCE COMMUNITY THEATRE COMPANY	defiancecommunitytheater.org	Garfield County
Denver Brass, Inc.	denverbrass.org	Denver County
Denver Center for the Performing Arts	denvercenter.org	Denver County
Denver Children's Choir	denverchildrenschoir.org	Denver County
Denver Young Artists Orchestra	dyao.org	Denver County
Diaspora Dance Company	rastasalsadance.com	
Durango Bluegrass Meltdown	durangomeltdown.com	La Plata County
Durango Choral Society	Durangochoralsociety.org	La Plata County
Durango Creative District	durangocreativedistrict.org	La Plata County
Durango Dance	Durangodance.com	La Plata County
Durango Film Institute dba Durango Independent Film Festival	durangofilm.org	La Plata County
Durango PlayFest	durangoplayfest.org	La Plata County
DV8 Distillery	dv8.fun	Boulder County
Eagle ARTS	eaglearts.org	Eagle County
east end arts district association	auroraculture.org	Arapahoe County
EcoArts Connections	ecoartsconnections.org	Boulder County
Elevation Dance Studio	elevationdancestudio.com	Routt County
Englewood Cultural Arts Center Association	englewoodarts.org	Arapahoe County
EPIC	epicmustsee.org	El Paso County
eTown	etown.org	Boulder County
Evergreen Players Inc.	evergreenplayers.org	Jefferson County
Feel the Beat, Corp.	feelthebeat.dance	Arapahoe County
Firefly Handmade Markets, LLC	fireflyhandmade@gmail.com	Boulder County
Flamenco Denver	flamencodenver.org	Denver County
Florence Arts Council	florenceartscouncil.com	Fremont County
Fort Collins Entertainment, LLC dba The Aggie Theatre	theaggietheatre.com	Larimer County

Fort Collins Musicians Association	focoma.org	Larimer County
FORT COLLINS SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION	FCSymphony.org	Larimer County
Four Corners Gem and Mineral Club	durangorocks.org	La Plata County
Frequent Flyers® Productions, Inc.	frequentflyers.org	Boulder County
Friends of Chamber Music	friendsofchambermusic.com	Denver County
Friends of Francisco Fort History Museum	franciscofort.org	Huerfano County
Friends of the Chief	friendsofyvarts.org	Routt County
Front Range Chamber Players	frontrangechamberplayers.org	Larimer County
Goldpanner Group LLC dba The Buffalo Rose	buffalorosegolden.com	Jefferson County
Great Knight Productions	greatknightproductions.com	Routt County
Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras	greaterboulderyo.org	Boulder County
Greater Purpose Media	greaterpurposemedia.com	Denver County
Green Box Arts	greenboxarts.org	El Paso County
Guerilla Garden	guerillagarden.comhome.html	Denver County
Hear Here Poetry LLC	hearherepoetry.org	El Paso County
Historic Denver/ Molly Brown House Museum	historicdenver.org	Denver County
Huajatolla Heritage Foundation	hhfoundation.org	Huerfano County
I Bar Ranch	ibarranch.com	Gunnison County
iAM Music	iammusic.us	La Plata County
Ignacio Creative District	ignaciocreativedistrict.org	La Plata County
Imaginary Friends	merelyplayers.org	La Plata County
Imagination Celebration	imaginationcelebration.rog	El Paso County
Impulse Dance	impulsedancefitness.com	Larimer County
Inside the Orchestra	insidetheorchestra.org	Adams County
International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management	iiirm.org	Denver County
Jacales Fine Art	fourcornersgeotourism.com	Costilla County
Japanese Arts Network	ja-ne.org	Broomfield County
JLF Colorado	jflitfest.orgcolorado	Boulder County
Kantorei	kantorei.org	Arapahoe County
Kim Robards Dance, Inc.	KimRobardsDance.org	Adams County
KRFC 88.9 FM Radio Fort Collins	krfcfm.org	Larimer County
Third Law	3rdlaw.org	Boulder County
KSUT Public Radio	ksut.org; ksutpresents.org	La Plata County
Lake Dillon Theatre Company	lakedillontheatre.org	Summit County
Lemon Sponge Cake Contemporary Ballet	lemonspongecake.org	Boulder County
Leon Gallery	leongallery.org	Denver County
LITTLETON TOWN HALL ARTS CENTER	townhallartscenter.org	Arapahoe County

Local Theater Company	localtheaterco.org	Boulder County
Longmont Chorale, Inc.	longmontchorale.org	Boulder County
Longmont Museum	longmontmuseum.org	Boulder County
Loveland Museum/City of Loveland	thelovelandmuseum.org	Larimer County
LuneAseas	luneaseas.org	Larimer County
Mancos Common Press	mancoscommonpress.org	Montezuma County
Mancos Creative District	mancoscreativedistrict.com	Montezuma County
Manitou Art Theatre (dba Millibo Art Theatre)	themat.org	El Paso County
McGoon Productions	mcgoonproductions.com	Park County
Millenium Allstars Cheer and dance	milleniumaallstars.com	El Paso County
Mirror Image dba Mirror Image Arts	mirrorimagearts.org	Denver County
Morrison Theatre Company	minersalley.com	Jefferson County
Motus Theater	motustheater.org	Boulder County
Mountain School of Music and Dance	mountainperformingarts.org	Arapahoe County
Muse PerformanceSpace	museperformancespace.com	Boulder County
Museum of Art Fort Collins	moafc.org	Larimer County
Museum of Contemporary Art Denver	mcadenverorg	Denver County
Museum of Friends	museumoffriends.org	Huerfano County
Museums of Western Colorado	mowc.co	Mesa County
Music in the Mountains	musicinthemountains.com	La Plata County
National Repertory Orchestra Inc	nromusic.org	Summit County
New Ute Theatre Society	utetheater.comsupport-the-utevolunteer	Garfield County
NoBo Art District	noboartdistrict.org	Boulder County
Northglenn Arts & Humanities Foundation	northglennarts.org	Adams County
Open Media Foundation	openmediafoundation.org	Denver County
Opera Colorado	operacolorado.org	Arapahoe County
Pagosa Arts Initiative	pagosaartsinitiative.org	Archuleta County
Palm Arts Inc.	telluridepalm.com	San Miguel County
Paonia ClayWorks	Paoniaclayworks.com	Delta County
Park County Creative Alliance	parkcreates.org	Park County
Performing Arts Academy	paacolorado.org	Douglas County
Phamaly Theatre Company	phamaly.org	Denver County
Picketwire Players	picketwireplayers.org	Otero County
Pickin Productions	pickinproductions.com	Delta County
Pirate: A Contemporary Art Oasis	pirateartonline.org	Jefferson County
PlatteForum	platteforum.org	Denver County
Poetry Heals	PoetryHeals.org	El Paso County

Prison Art LLC dba Art for Redemption	artforredemption.com	Denver County
Pueblo Arts Alliance	puebloarts.org	Pueblo County
Pueblo Children's Chorale	pueblochildrenschorale.org	Pueblo County
Q Publishing Group LTD dba OUT FRONT Magazine (OFM)	outfrontmagazine.com	Denver County
RAE-TREV Management Co., Inc., DBA Q's Pub & Grill	qspub.com	Jefferson County
Redemptive Dance Ministries	rdm.life	Jefferson County
Regents of the University of Colorado, a body corporate, on behalf of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Ent Center for the Arts	entcenterforthearts.org	El Paso County
Riverwalk Theater	riverwalktheater.com	Eagle County
Roaring Fork Friends of the Theater	thunderrivertheatre.com	Garfield County
Rocky Mountain Arts DBA Telluride Fire Festival	telluridefirefestival.org	San Miguel County
Rocky Mountain Public Media, Inc.	kuvo.org, thedrop303.org	Denver County
Rocky Mountain Women's Film	rmwfilm.org	El Paso County
Rocky Ridge Music Center Foundation	rockyridge.org	Boulder County
roshniislight.org	roshniislight.org	Arapahoe County
San Juan Symphony	sanjuansymphony.org	La Plata County
Sangre Arts Guild	sangresartguild.org	Custer County
Sangre de Cristo Arts Center	sdc-arts.org	Pueblo County
Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema	sanssoucifestival.org	Boulder County
School of Breaking	schoolofbreaking.com	Arapahoe County
Seed Studio	seedstudiokids.org	La Plata County
Snowmass Arts Advisory Board	tosv.com	Pitkin County
Society for Creative Aging/VIVA Theater	vivatheater.org	Boulder County
Southern Colorado Theatre Company dba Steel City Theatre Company	steelcitytheatre.org	Pueblo County
SPANISH PEAKS ARTS COUNCIL	spanishpeaksarts.org	Huerfano County
Spectra Art Space	spectraartspace.com	Denver County
Sphere Ensemble	SphereEnsemble.org	Denver County
Spirit Dance	spiritdancecolorado.com	Prowers County
Square Halos	facebook.com/squarehalos	Douglas County
square product theatre	squareproducttheatre.org	Boulder County
Steamboat Art Museum	steamboatartmuseum.com	Routt County
Steamboat Dance Theatre	steamboatdancetheatre.org	Routt County
Steamboat Symphony Orchestra	steamboatsymphony.org	Routt County
Sterling Creatives LLC	sterlingcreativesl.wixsite.comsterlingcreatives	Logan County

Stories on Stage	storiesonstage.org	Boulder County
Street Wise Arts	streetwisearts.org	Boulder County
Summit Dance Works	summitdanceworks.com	El Paso County
Sustain Music & Nature	sustainmusicandnature.org	Larimer County
Symphony in the Valley, Inc.	sitv.orgwp	Garfield County
Telluride AIDS Benefit	aidsbenefit.org	San Miguel County
Telluride Chamber Music Association	telluridechambermusic.org	San Miguel County
Telluride Dance Collective	telluridedancecollective.com	San Miguel County
The Art Garage	ArtGarageDenver.com	Denver County
The Arts Studio D.B.A. Firehouse Art Center	firehouseart.org	Boulder County
The Backdoor Theatre	thebackdoortheatre.org	Boulder County
The Boulder Creative Collective	bouldercreativecollective.com	Boulder County
The Catamounts, NFP	thecatamounts.org	Boulder County
The Center for Fine Art Photography	c4fap.org	Larimer County
The Center for the Arts Evergreen	evergreenarts.org	Jefferson County
The Historic Ute Theatre and Cultural Arts Center	historicutetheatre.com	Saguache County
The Littleton Chorale dba Voices West	voiceswest.org	Arapahoe County
The Nomad Playhouse	nomadplayhouse.org	Boulder County
The Ridgway Chautauqua Society	sherbino.org	Ouray County
The Robert and Judi Newman Center for the Performing Arts	newmancenterpresents.com	Denver County
The Sundance Studio, LLC	thesundancestudio.com	El Paso County
The Venue Theatre	thevenuetheatre.com	Jefferson County
Tier Two Live	tiertwolive.com	Boulder County
Tinker Art Studio, LLC	tinkerartstudio.comstudio-home	Boulder County
Trinidaddio Blues Fest	trinidaddiobluesfest.com	Las Animas County
Tunas Mekar, Inc.	tunasmekar.org	Denver County
U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum	usopm.org	El Paso County
Union Hall	unionhalldenver.org	Denver County
Up with People	upwithpeople.org	Adams County
Ute Theater and Events Center	utetheater.com	Garfield County
Valley Youth Orchestra	valleyyouthorchestra.org	Delta County
Visionbox Studio (Theatre)	visionbox.org	Denver County
VOICES	voicesrfv.org	Garfield County
Weehawken Creative Arts	WeehawkenSherbino Offices	Ouray County
Wildfire Community Arts Center	wildfirearts.org	Larimer County
Willowtail Springs Nature Preserve and Education Center	willowtail.org	Montezuma County

Wolverine Farm Letterpress and Publick House
World Music Development
Worldwide Performance Group, LLC (dba, Choirs of America)
WOW! Children's Museum
Yampa Valley Performing Arts Council, dba Piknik Theatre
Youth Documentary Academy

wolverinefarm.org
worldmusicdevelopment.org
vocalmusic.org
wowchildrensmuseum.org
pikniktheatre.org
youthdocumentary.org

Larimer County
Park County
Larimer County
Boulder County
Routt County
El Paso County





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Industries

oedit.colorado.gov/colorado-creative-industries